

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were examined; and Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9 were rejected. Claims 2, 6-7 and 10-14 were allowed; and Claims 15-26 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants amend Claim 1; but do not delete or add any claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9, in view of at least the following.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Patent Office rejects Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,121,688 to Akagawa ("Akagawa"). It is axiomatic that to be anticipated, every limitation of a claim must be disclosed in a single reference.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection above and submit that independent Claim 1, as amended, is allowable for at least the reason that Akagawa does not teach a conductive material comprising a unidirectional electrical conductivity configured to be in a direction corresponding to a projection to or from a contact point in a second conductive material as required by Claim 1. According to Claim 1, as amended, for example, a conductive material may have a directional conductivity in only one direction, that direction being the direction corresponding to a projection to and from a contact point and a second conductive material.

Akagawa teaches an isotropic conductive sheet formed with conductive fillers, such as metal particles, in a resin (see Abstract). For example, Akagawa teaches that the application of pressure causes the conductive filler metallic powder to become conductive due to the continuity of the conductive filler powder. (see Col. 4, lines 11-17 and Figures 2-3 and 7-8).

However, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or description in Akagawa of a unidirectional electrical conductivity in a direction to or from a contact point and a conductive material, as required by amended Claim 1. Specifically, Akagawa teaches that the conductivity of sheath 38 exists between pressed portion of the sheet, such as between a pad and a

circuit pattern (see Col. 6, lines 29-33; Col. 5, lines 12-20; **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**). However, the conductivity between the pressed portions, although localized, is not unidirectional, but is omni-directional. Specifically, when the conductive filler or metallic powder is pressed together between the pressed portion, the contact between filler particles creates a conductivity in all directions between the pressed portion (see **Figures 2** and **3**). This conduction is not unidirectional. For example, if pad 36 of **Figure 2** were two pads instead of one sheet 38 would provide conductivity between both of the pads as well as between both of the pads and circuit pattern 40. On the other hand, a unidirectional electrical conductivity would not cause conductivity between both of the pads formed by splitting pad 36.

Hence, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for Claim 1.

Applicants assert that dependent Claims 3-5 and 8-9 being dependent upon allowable base Claim 1 are allowable for at least the reasons described. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for those dependent claims.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants note with appreciation the Patent Office finding Claims 2, 6-7 and 10-14 as allowed.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on May 24, 2005.


Lillian E. Rodriguez

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